



# Avid Unity™ MediaNet for Pro Tools®

## Release Notes

*File Manager Release 1.2.1 PT and Pro Tools Macintosh Client Release 1.2.2*

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### **Important Information**

Avid recommends that you read all the information in these release notes thoroughly before installing or using any new software release.

For information about the Pro Tools Macintosh v5.1U software and late changes to these release notes, see the ReadMe files included on the Pro Tools Macintosh v5.1U CD-ROM.

## **MediaNet for Pro Tools Overview**

Pro Tools Macintosh version 5.1U is designed to work with the Avid Unity MediaNet Release 1.2.1 PT File Manager and the Pro Tools for Macintosh Client Release 1.2.2. As a result, it is now possible to connect Pro Tools v5.1U workstations to a MediaNet workgroup, according to the configurations described later in these release notes.

Pro Tools is now capable of operating as part of either a Pro Tools only MediaNet workgroup, or in a mixed MediaNet workgroup with Avid Composer Products clients.

Incorporating Pro Tools into a MediaNet workgroup enables direct sharing of audio and video files, allowing audio and video professionals work together on a production without the need to redigitize or “lay off” elements to tape.

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## Contents

MediaNet for Pro Tools Overview . . . . .	1
Symbols and Conventions . . . . .	3
What's New in MediaNet Release 1.2.1 PT . . . . .	3
Supported Pro Tools Hardware and Software . . . . .	4
Unsupported Pro Tools Hardware and Software . . . . .	6
MediaNet Workgroup Requirements . . . . .	8
Avid Workstation Requirements . . . . .	10
Supported Configurations . . . . .	11
Cabling Illustrations . . . . .	13
Installing MediaNet for Pro Tools Client Hardware . . . . .	18
Installing MediaNet for Pro Tools . . . . .	19
Updating the File Manager . . . . .	19
Installing Pro Tools Version 5.1U . . . . .	20
Installing the MediaNet for Pro Tools Client . . . . .	21
Pro Tools Performance Guidelines . . . . .	23
File Open/Close . . . . .	25
Maximum Number of Open Files . . . . .	25
Pro Tools Usage Caveats . . . . .	26
Workflow Examples . . . . .	33
Known Issues . . . . .	36
Technical Support Information . . . . .	37

## Symbols and Conventions

These installation notes use the following special symbols and conventions:



A check mark indicates a bug that has been fixed.



An X indicates a known bug or limitation. Where appropriate, a workaround is provided.



*A note provides important related information, reminders, recommendations, and strong suggestions.*



**A caution means that a specific action you take could cause harm to your computer or cause you to lose data.**

## What's New in MediaNet Release 1.2.1 PT

MediaNet Release 1.2.1 PT contains the following:

- Support for Pro Tools workstations as MediaNet clients



*Pro Tools clients can playback only one stream of uncompressed video.*

- Optimization for digitizing uncompressed media to a protected workspace

## Supported Pro Tools Hardware and Software

Digidesign offers a range of Pro Tools products for both Macintosh operating system and the Windows NT operating system.

At present, only Digidesign's Pro Tools | 24 MIX workstations are supported in a MediaNet workgroup. These workstations must be Macintosh-based, and running the Pro Tools v5.1U software and the MediaNet for Pro Tools Release 1.2.2 client software.

The following sections describe the Pro Tools hardware and software required to connect a Pro Tools workstation to a MediaNet workgroup.

### Supported Digidesign Hardware

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports the following Digidesign hardware:

- Pro Tools | MIX hardware (required)
- Universal Slave Driver (required)
- Digidesign 888 | 24, 882 | 20, 888, 882, and ADAT Bridge audio interfaces only (optional, qualified)
- AVoption | XL (optional, qualified)
- ProControl (optional, qualified)
- Digidesign SCSI-64 board for local storage (optional, qualified)



*If you are using both local storage and MediaNet storage, you should keep all of the files for your session in one location or the other. Splitting sessions across both storage mediums is not recommended. See "32 Voice Playback Engine" on page 26 for additional information.*

Supported Pro Tools Platform

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports Pro Tools workstations using the following Apple Macintosh platforms. Table 1 shows the layout of the Digidesign boards in the Macintosh chassis.

- Power Macintosh G4 with AGP graphics



*The multiprocessor Power Macintosh G4 is not currently supported for Pro Tools.*

- Mac OS 9.0.4 or 9.1
- 256 MB RAM (minimum)

**Table 1      Pro Tools CPU Slot Layout**

Slot	Board
AGP Slot	AGP Graphics Board
Slot 1	PCI Expansion Chassis host bus adapter
Slot 2	Empty
Slot 3	Empty or the Digidesign SCSI-64 board

Supported Pro Tools PCI Expansion Chassis

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports Pro Tools workstations using either the Pro Tools 13-slot Expansion Chassis or the 13-slot Magma PCI Expansion System. The expansion chassis can only be a current model, identified by a 68-pin connector on the back of the chassis (Magma model PCI-13R or Digidesign-branded Magma OEM chassis with a serial number higher than NB0600100C). Table 2 shows the Digidesign board layout in the expansion chassis.

**Table 2      Pro Tools Expansion Chassis Slot Layout**

Slot	Board
Backplane Slot	Chassis Interface Board
Slot 4 (at the far right when viewing the front of the chassis)	MIX core board
Slots 5-9	Additional MIX farm boards (if needed)
Slots 4-7 (second PCI bridge)	Additional MIX farm boards or DSP 2 farm boards (if needed)
Slot 8	Empty or the Digidesign SCSI-64 board
Slot 9 (second PCI bridge)	Meridien Digital Media Board
Slot 10 (second PCI bridge)	JNI A4 Fibre Channel adapter board

### Supported Pro Tools Software

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports Pro Tools workstations running Pro Tools v5.1U software. If you also need to use DigiTranslator, you can get the latest version from Digidesign.

## Unsupported Pro Tools Hardware and Software

The primary focus of testing for this initial release has been on basic post production and broadcast applications, with an emphasis on Meridien-based Avid video.

The following sections describe the Pro Tools hardware and software that is not supported when you connect a Pro Tools workstation to a MediaNet workgroup.

### **Unsupported Digidesign Hardware**

MediaNet for Pro Tools does not support the following Digidesign hardware:

- Pro Tools III and Pro Tools d24 hardware
- AOption is not qualified

### **Unsupported Software and Features**

MediaNet for Pro Tools does not support the following software or features:

- ABVB video support using the AOption
- QuickTime Video Playback, including floating window, the Miro board, and the Fuse board
- Import Audio From Other Movie, except for CD ripping to MediaNet workspaces
- TrackTransfer. This application is no longer needed with Pro Tools v5.1 or later
- PostConform. This application can be run from local storage

### **Untested Software**

MediaNet for Pro Tools was not tested with the following software:

- SampleCell
- DirectConnect
- MIDI
- Third party applications

# MediaNet Workgroup Requirements

The following sections describe the MediaNet hardware and software required to connect a Pro Tools workstation to a MediaNet workgroup.

## File Manager Hardware

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports any of the following qualified File Managers:

- Avid File Manager (desktop): 400 MHz PII, 500 MHz PIII, or 600 MHz PIII; 768-MB RAM; Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5
- IBM M Pro (minitower): 400 MHz PII; 768-MB RAM; Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5
- Avid File Manager (2U rack-mount): Dual 600 MHz PIII; 768-MB RAM, Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5
- Avid File Manager (2U rack-mount): Dual 800 MHz PIII; 768-MB RAM, Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5



**Microsoft Windows NT Service Pack 6 is currently not supported on the File Manager. Installing Service Pack 6 on the File Manager can adversely effect performance or cause other unpredictable results.**

## MEDIAArray Drive Enclosures

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports all models of the MEDIAArray Drive Enclosure.

## MEDIASwitches

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports only the Vixel 8100, 7100, and 7200 MEDIASwitches.



**MEDIArray Drives**

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports 9-GB, 18-GB, 50-GB, and 73-GB MEDIArray drives. Table 3 shows the supported MEDIArray drives and their availability for use with Composer products and Pro Tools

**Table 3      Supported Fibre Channel MEDIArray Drives**

Capacity <sup>a</sup> (GB)	Speed (RPM)	Manufacturer and Model	Firmware (Data/Comm)	Composer Product Support	Pro Tools Support
18 GB	10,000	Seagate ST118202FC	332F/FD83	Yes	Yes
18 GB	10,000	Seagate ST318203FC	3353a/FF57	Yes	Yes
18 GB	10,000	Seagate ST318304FCV	3391/AC91	Yes	Yes
73 GB	10,000	Seagate ST173404FCV	3391/AC91	Yes	Yes

- a. The 9-GB MediaShare F/C drives and the 50-GB MEDIArray drives are not qualified for use with MediaNet Pro Tools. If you have these drives in your MediaNet workgroup, they should not be used for storing Pro Tools audio files.

**File Manager Software**

MediaNet for Pro Tools supports the File Manager running MediaNet Release 1.2.1 PT.

## Avid Workstation Requirements

MediaNet for Pro Tools currently supports some Macintosh-based Avid Composer products and all Windows NT-based Avid Composer products in a mixed workgroups with Pro Tools.



*Pro Tools clients with the AVoption | XL currently only support JFIF video resolutions generated by the Meridien I/O box. They do not support Avid's older AVR video resolutions.*

MediaNet for Pro Tools can be used with Meridien-based video files from the following Avid workstations:

- Windows NT Clients:
  - Symphony – IBM M Pro 400PII, 500PIII, 600PIII, 320-MB RAM, Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or later
  - Media Composer – IBM M Pro 400PII, 500PIII, 600PIII, 256-MB RAM, Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or later
  - Avid Express – IBM M Pro 400PII, 500PIII, 600PIII, 192-MB RAM, Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or later



*MediaNet for Pro Tools currently does not support playing video from Avid Express DV clients.*

- Macintosh Clients:
  - Power Macintosh 9600 with Mac OS 8.6 or later
  - Power Macintosh G3 with Mac OS 8.6 or later
  - Power Macintosh G4 350 MHz with Mac OS 8.6 or later, 450 MHz and 500 MHz with Mac OS 9.0 or later



*Make sure that your Avid workstation is running the latest release of the Avid Composer Products software. Contact your Avid reseller or Avid Customer Support to obtain information about the latest software releases.*

## Supported Configurations

MediaNet for Pro Tools enables collaboration between Pro Tools workstations and Avid Composer workstations. The following sections describe the requirements necessary to create a MediaNet for Pro Tools workgroup.

### Maximum Number of Clients

A MediaNet for Pro Tools workgroup can support the following number of clients:

- Up to four Composer Products clients using dual-stream 1:1 video with one Pro Tools client with AVoption | XL using single-stream 1:1 video
- Up to four Composer Products clients using dual-stream 1:1 video with up to three Pro Tools clients with AVoption | XL using single-stream 3:1 or higher video
- Up to nine Composer Products clients using single-stream 3:1 video with up to three Pro Tools clients with AVoption | XL using single-stream 3:1 or higher video
- Up to six Composer Products clients using single-stream 10:1 video and up to two Composer Products clients using dual-stream 1:1 video with up to three Pro Tools clients with AVoption | XL using single-stream 10:1 or higher video



*Other configurations of MediaNet for Pro Tools will be made available as they are tested. Consults your Avid salesperson or reseller, or your Digidesign salesperson or reseller for more information.*

## Sharing Media Between Clients Within Allocation Groups

You can share audio and video files among several MediaNet clients. You must, however, remember the following restrictions when you are sharing files:

- Each single-user video allocation group must connect directly to a MEDIASwitch port.
- Audio files for Pro Tools clients should be in a separate audio allocation group from the video files.
- Table 4 shows the number of drives needed in audio allocation groups for Pro Tools clients to play 32 tracks.

**Table 4      Allocation Group Sizes**

Pro Tools Clients	1000 ms	Edit Density	
		500 ms	300 ms <sup>a</sup>
1	4	4	6 E
2	6	8	10 E
3	8	10	14 E

a. E = Estimated

- Each client that is using dual-stream 1:1 video (Media Composer or Symphony) must have dedicated access to the single-user allocation group containing the video files. No other clients can share the video files while these clients are using them.
- In an environment with at least one client running two streams at 1:1 video resolution, the maximum number of clients that can be supported is seven. However, if protection is enabled and the environment contains 18 GB HH or 50 GB HH drives, the maximum number of clients is six.

- Only one Pro Tools client can access a single-user allocation group containing 1:1 video files, provided the allocation group is not being used by a video editing client and the Pro Tools client plays only a single stream of video.
- Up to three Pro Tools clients can access an allocation group containing 3:1 or higher compressed video files and share the files in the allocation group while they are being used by a video editing client.

For additional information on MediaNet workgroup configuration requirements and restrictions, see the “Supported Configurations” section in the *Avid Unity MediaNet Release 1.2.1 Release Notes*.

## Cabling Illustrations

This section provides cabling information and diagrams for nonfinishing, mixed, and finishing environments. The line work in the diagrams should be interpreted as follows:

- Components with solid lines are necessary to create the MediaNet environment with the *minimum* recommended storage configuration.
- Components with dotted lines are optional additions that can be made to the MediaNet environment up to the *maximum* configuration. They also show where the component should be attached to the MediaNet environment.

Table 5 contains detailed information about each supported configuration. The information includes:

- The maximum number of MediaNet clients.
- The maximum video resolution that Pro Tools clients can use.
- The maximum number of audio tracks that each Pro Tools client can use.
- The maximum video resolution that MediaNet clients can use.

- The maximum number of audio tracks that each MediaNet client can use.
- The minimum number of MEDIArray enclosures.
- The number of MEDIASwitches and the MEDIASwitch sizes in the configuration.
- The host file name that should be used to configure the MEDIASwitches.



*MediaNet for Pro Tools environments require the File Manager to have 768 MB of memory.*

**Table 5 Supported MediaNet for Pro Tools Configurations**

Configuration	Maximum Clients	Pro Tools Clients	Maximum Video Resolution Per Client	Maximum Audio Tracks Per Client	Composer Products Clients	Maximum Video Resolution Per Client	Maximum Audio Tracks Per Client	Minimum MEDIArray Enclosures	Qualification Status <sup>a</sup>	Number of MEDIASwitches	MEDIASwitch Host File
1	4	1 3	1 to 1 3 to 1	32	0	N/A	N/A	2	Q	1 (8-port)	7100_6h_2j
2 <sup>b</sup>	5	1	1 to 1	32	4	1 to 1	4	6 <sup>c</sup>	Q	1 (16-port)	7200_10h_6j
3	11	3	10 to 1	32	2 6	1 to 1 10 to 1	4	4 <sup>d</sup>	Q	1 (16-port)	7200_12h_4j
4	12	3	3 to 1	32	9	3 to 1 <sup>e</sup>	4	4	Q	1 (16-port)	7200_13h_3j

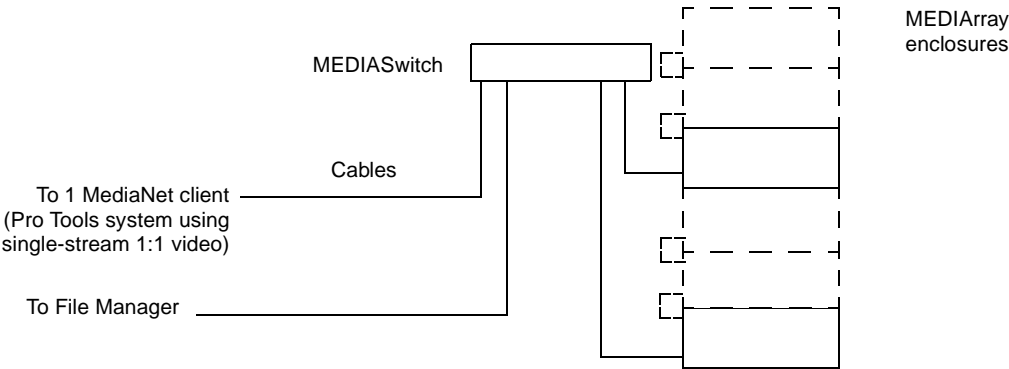
a. Q = Qualified; E = Estimated

b. This configuration requires an isolated drive enclosure for the administration drive. This enclosure holds only the administration drive and a spare drive; the other six enclosures hold the data drives in individual allocation groups.

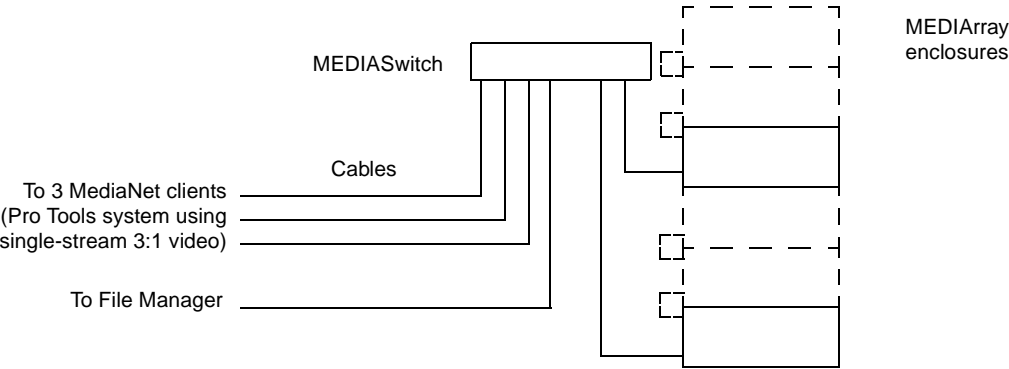
c. This configuration requires an individual drive enclosure for each 1:1 Composer Products client and a separate drive enclosure for the Pro Tools audio.

d. This configuration requires an individual drive enclosure for each 1:1 Composer Products client.

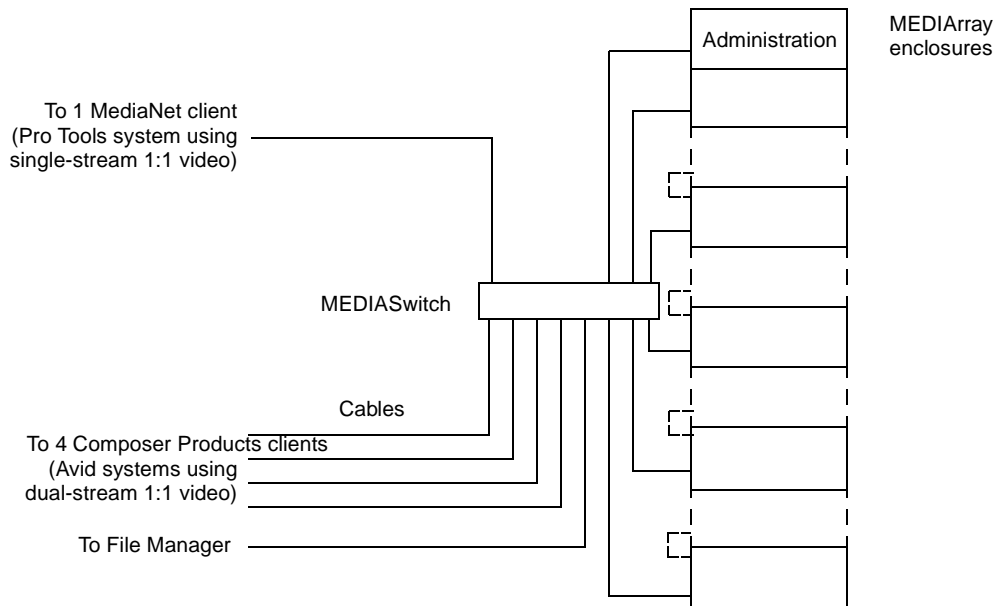
e. Single-streams of 3:1 video.



**Figure 1 Configuration 1a**

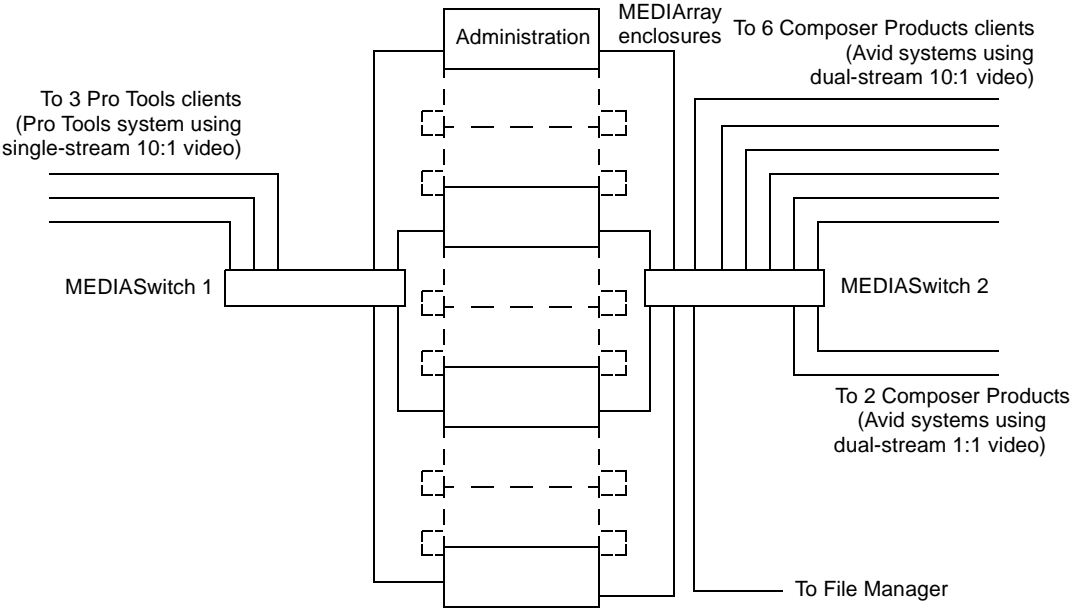


**Figure 2 Configuration 1b**

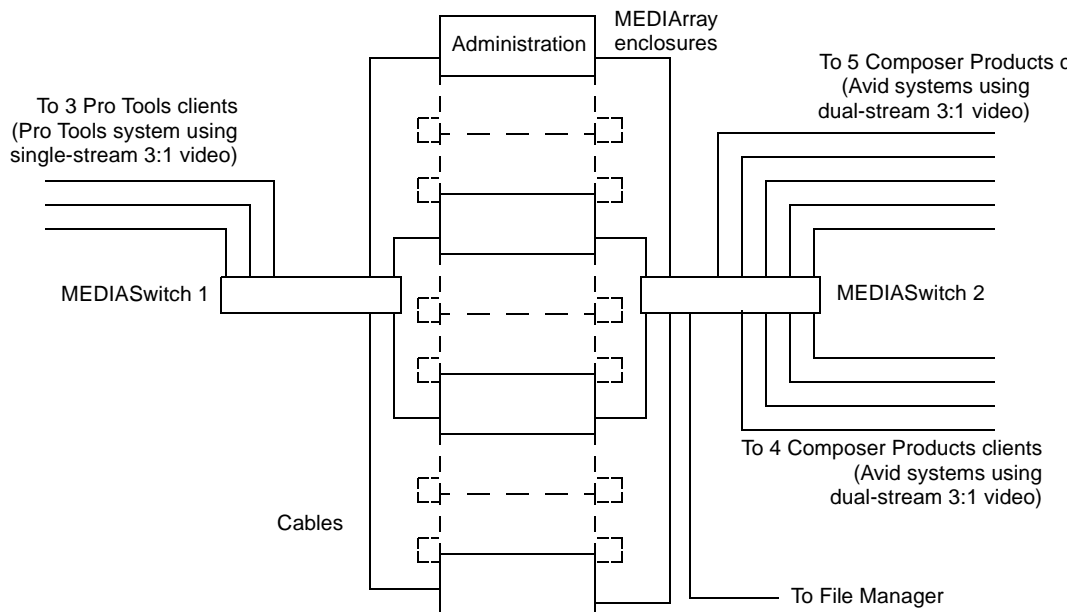


**Figure 3      Configuration 2**





**Figure 4      Configuration 3**



**Figure 5 Configuration 4**

## Installing MediaNet for Pro Tools Client Hardware

To install the Fibre Channel adapter board in a Pro Tools workstation, follow the Macintosh hardware installation instructions supplied in the *Avid Unity MediaNet Setup Guide*. You'll need to locate the adapter board in the expansion chassis in the slot designated in Table 2.

To install the MediaNet software and make any configuration changes to the Pro Tools workstation, follow the Macintosh software installation instructions in the *Avid Unity MediaNet Setup Guide*.

## Installing MediaNet for Pro Tools

The MediaNet for Pro Tools kit contains two installation CD-ROMs. The CD-ROMs are:

- MediaNet for Pro Tools CD – updates the MediaNet File Manager (Windows NT) and installs the MediaNet for Pro Tools client software onto the Pro Tools system (Macintosh only).
- Pro Tools v5.1U Update CD – installs the Pro Tools v5.1U software

## Updating the File Manager

MediaNet for Pro Tools requires that you update the File Manager to support the Pro Tools clients.



*You must have MediaNet Release 1.2.1 and MediaNet Release 1.2.1 Service Pack 3 installed on the File Manager before you install the MediaNet for Pro Tools update. If the File Manager already has this software installed, you can skip to step 4.*

To install the MediaNet for Pro Tools File Manager update:

1. Install Windows NT Workstation 4.0 & Service Pack 5 (refer to Microsoft documentation)
2. Install MediaNet Release 1.2.1. Follow the installation instructions provided in the MediaNet Release 1.2.1 Release Notes.
3. Install MediaNet Release 1.2.1 Service Pack 3. Follow the installation instructions provided in the MediaNet Release 1.2.1 Service Pack 3 Release Notes.

4. Insert the MediaNet for Pro Tools CD-ROM into the File Manager CD-ROM drive. The CD-ROM is set to auto-start and open the Avid Unity V1.2.1 PT window. This takes approximately 1 minute. If the CD-ROM does not auto-start, start the installation manually as follows:
  - a. Double-click My Computer on the desktop. The My Computer window opens.
  - b. Right-click the MN121pt CD-ROM icon and click Open. The CD-ROM window opens.
  - c. Navigate to the \Unity\NT40 folder.
  - d. Double-click the Setup or Setup.exe icon. The Avid Unity V1.2.1 PT window opens.
5. Accept the default values presented by the Install Wizard.
6. In the Setup Type list box, click Avid Unity MediaNet 1.2.1 PT.
7. Continue by accepting the default values presented by the Install Wizard. A Question dialog box appears.
8. In response to the message "Installation complete. Would you like to launch the MediaNet Configuration tool?", click OK. The MediaNet 1.2.1 Configuration Tool dialog box appears.
9. If Current Value is less than 15500, choose 15500 from the New Value pull-down menu.
10. Click OK. A MediaNet 1.2.1 Configuration dialog box appears.
11. Click OK.
12. Reboot the File Manager.

## Installing Pro Tools Version 5.1U



**If you uninstall Pro Tools v5.1U, either manually or using the Pro Tools uninstaller, you must reinstall both Pro Tools v5.1U and MediaNet for Pro Tools software to regain a functional MediaNet for Pro Tools client.**

To install Pro Tools v5.1U:

1. Install Mac OS 9.0 on the Pro Tools client. Follow the installation instructions supplied with the operating system.
2. Install the Mac OS 9.0.4 Update on the Pro Tools client. Follow the installation instructions supplied with the operating system update.
3. If desired, install the Mac OS 9.1 Update on the Pro Tools client. Follow the installation instructions supplied with the operating system update.
4. Install Pro Tools v5.1U on the Pro Tools client. Follow the installation instructions supplied in the Pro Tools installation guide.

## Installing the MediaNet for Pro Tools Client



*You must have Mac OS 9.0.4 or Mac OS 9.1, and Pro Tools v5.1U installed on the Pro Tools Macintosh client before you install the MediaNet for Pro Tools client software. If the client already has this software installed, you can skip to step 1.*



**The MediaNet for Pro Tools client software should only be loaded onto Pro Tools v5.1U clients. The MediaNet for Pro Tools client software is not qualified to run on Avid Composer products clients and, if installed on these clients, it can cause unpredictable results.**

To install the MediaNet for Pro Tools client:

1. Insert the MediaNet for Pro Tools CD-ROM into the Pro Tools for Macintosh client CD-ROM drive.
2. Double-click the MN122pt CD-ROM icon. The MN122pt window opens.
3. Double-click the Avid Unity for Pro Tools Install icon. The Avid Unity for Pro Tools splash screen appears.
4. Click Continue.

5. Read the license agreement and click Accept. The Avid Unity for Pro Tools Install window opens. If you click Decline, you will end the installation.
6. Select the Easy Install option to install all of the necessary software on the Macintosh HD drive.
7. Click Install. The MediaNet for Pro Tools client software is installed in the Avid Unity folder on the Macintosh HD drive.
8. After the software is installed, a dialog box appears asking if you would like to Continue, Quit, or Restart the Macintosh client. Click Restart.
9. After the Macintosh client reboots, open the Avid Unity folder, select the Administration Tool, and press ⌘-I (Command-I). The version should be Version: 1.2.2.

After installing the Pro Tools v5.1U software and the MediaNet for Pro Tools client software, the following files will appear on the Pro Tools workstation:

- Macintosh HD
  - Avid Unity Installer Log File
  - Avid Unity folder
- Macintosh HD > Avid Unity
  - AdministrationTool
  - Avid Unity Utilities folder
  - Help folder
- Macintosh HD > Avid Unity > Avid Unity Utilities
  - Volinfo
  - UnityStatistics
  - UnityDebugLogger
  - PTSessionLocker

- Digidesign folder > Pro Tools
  - Pro Tools 5.1U
  - Release Note (PDF file in the MediaNet folder)
- System Folder > Extensions
  - Avid Unity extension
  - AvidFibreDriver
  - JNI Compatibility
- System Folder > DAE folder
  - UnityAsynchStreamsLib
  - DAE

## Pro Tools Performance Guidelines

Normally, users should experience no appreciable difference between working with Pro Tools attached to a MediaNet workgroup or working with Pro Tools attached to local storage. Due to the architectural differences between MediaNet and local storage, some differences are noticeable.

### Track Count and Edit Density

Each MediaNet for Pro Tools client supports up to 32 tracks of either 24-bit or 16-bit, 48 kHz audio with one stream of up to 1:1 (uncompressed) or higher video in any combination of record and playback. Edit density is comparable to that of local storage.

## **User Interface and Graphics**

The Pro Tools workstation is tasked in a completely different manner when Pro Tools is recording or playing from MediaNet storage. For this reason, the update speed of the display and the responsiveness of the Pro Tools user interface might differ somewhat when compared to using local storage.

When using MediaNet storage, the Pro Tools workstation might periodically be interrupted by bursts of communication with the File Manager. This might cause the display not to refresh smoothly. These periodic, brief interruptions in display updating are most prevalent during long recording sessions or while playing back large sessions. These interruptions do not necessarily indicate that a problem exists and do not affect audio playback.

Except for these interruptions, display and user interface performance should be comparable to using local storage. For example:

- Counters, meters, scrolling, and other animated user interface elements are visually smooth in operation.
- Faders and panners move smoothly when automated.
- Mouse control of faders and panners is immediate and responsive. This includes TDM Plug-ins. RTAS and AudioSuite, because of their host-based implementation, might provide less-than-smooth operation under certain circumstances.
- Scrubbing and auditioning (in the Regions List and Import Audio dialog) is immediate when you press the mouse button.
- Editing during playback is smooth. Mouse control of editing tools is immediate and responsive.



## File Open/Close

Pro Tools periodically opens and closes files (to buffer them for playback, for example). When using MediaNet storage, the file open/close process is somewhat slower than with local storage. This is most noticeable when first opening an existing session. It can also cause sluggish Pro Tools performance with very large sessions.

## Maximum Number of Open Files

The File Manager can support having up to 15500 files open at one time. This number is configurable using the MediaNet Configuration Tool that is part of the MediaNet for Pro Tools File Manager update software. You can set the open file count to one of the default values (5000, 9000, or 15500) or type in a value between 5000 and 15500.



**Do not set the number of open files outside the specified range of 5000 to 15500 files. Values outside this range can cause performance problems or inhibit the File Manager's ability to start.**

Each Pro Tools client can have up to 8000 files open at one time. The maximum number of open files for all (up to three) Pro Tools clients is 15500. The open file count does not include some fade files. Fade files are handled in the following manner:

- Fade files smaller than 5 K are cached in memory, up to a total of 20 MB. When the cache becomes full, fade files smaller than 5 K are opened as regular files.
- Fade files larger than 5 K are always opened as regular files.

## Pro Tools Usage Caveats

The following sections describe differences when using Pro Tools in a MediaNet workgroup.

### 32 Voice Playback Engine

Pro Tools TDM workstations have two playback modes: 64-voice and 32-voice. For optimum performance in a MediaNet workgroup, you *must* use the 32-voice engine. To activate the 32-voice engine, choose Playback Engine from the Setups menu. Select the 32-voice engine and click OK. Pro Tools will now use the 32-voice engine unless the setting is changed at a later time.



*You can use the 64-voice playback engine if your session is on local storage.*

### Avid Compatibility Mode

Pro Tools v5.1 introduces a new preference called Avid Compatibility Mode. When enabled, this preference causes Pro Tools to treat all OMF media files as read-only files. This prevents destructive modification to shared files on MediaNet storage. You *must* enable this preference when working with shared files in a MediaNet workgroup.

Avid Compatibility Mode also enables OMF "wrapping" after bounce or internal record via bus paths. When enabled, Avid Compatibility Mode causes any media files created using Bounce to Disk (or any recorded files where the signal source was an internal Pro Tools bus) to be OMF media files, directly usable as time-stamped master clips in an Avid sequence.



### Mac/PC Compatibility Mode

Pro Tools v5.1 introduces a session property called Mac/PC Compatibility Mode. This mode is selectable when you create a new session. When enabled, Mac/PC Compatibility Mode restricts the ASCII characters you can use to create object names within Pro Tools. Only a subset of characters that is valid for both the Macintosh and Windows operating systems is allowed. You should choose this session property whenever you are working with a Pro Tools client in a MediaNet workgroup.

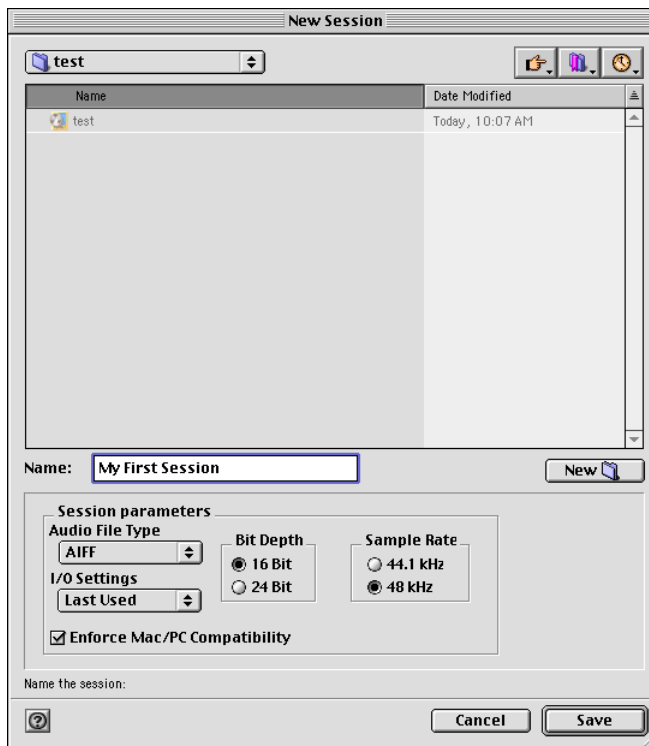
## Audio File Type

Pro Tools v5.1 supports AIFF, WAV, or Sound Designer II audio files natively. Macintosh-based Avid workstations normally work with Sound Designer II or AIFF files. Windows-based Avid workstations normally work with WAV or AIFF files. Table 6 shows the MediaNet clients and the types of audio files that they typically use.

**Table 6      Supported Audio File Formats**

Client and Operating System	AIFF	WAV	Sound Designer II
Pro Tools v5.1 / Mac OS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Avid / Mac OS	Yes	No	Yes
Avid / Windows	Yes	Yes	No

For media compatibility between Pro Tools workstations and Avid workstations, you should choose to work with AIFF media files. Make sure the Audio File Type popup menu in the New Session dialog box is set to AIFF when you are creating a new session.



## Sample Rate

Both Pro Tools workstations and Avid workstations can use either 48 kHz or 44.1 kHz audio files. Either sample rate is acceptable in a MediaNet workgroup, but it is preferable for all participants in the workgroup to agree on a standard, universal sample rate to avoid media conversion. Many facilities choose 48 kHz, the industry standard for post production and broadcast applications. Select the Session Sample Rate in the New Session dialog box.

## Bit Depth

Avid workstations currently supports both 24-bit and 16-bit audio. When using Pro Tools workstation in a MediaNet workgroup, set the

Bit depth to 16-bit in the New Session dialog box when you are creating new session files.

### **Session Settings and Preferences are “Sticky”**

Pro Tools stores all the changes made in the New Session dialog box, the Playback Engine dialog box, and the Preferences dialog box and uses them as the defaults for future sessions. Therefore, if you change the Pro Tools settings to those recommended previously, you do not need to constantly check and change these settings for each new session, providing your Pro Tools 5.1 preferences file is not deleted or replaced.

### **Destructive Editing Tools**

The following Pro Tools features can destructively modify audio files:

- Pencil Tool
- “Destructive” AudioSuite
- Delete Files
- Destructive Record
- Compact Selected

Avid Compatibility Mode forces Pro Tools to treat all OMF media as read-only, so that these destructive editing tools cannot be used to modify shared media files that were created by an Avid workstation.

Because Pro Tools does not currently create OMF media files natively, these destructive editing tools can be used on media created by Pro Tools. When you are working in a MediaNet workgroup, you should always create a copy of an audio file before applying a destructive change. Pro Tools cannot destructively modifies video files.

## MediaManager

Pro Tools v5.1 does not include automatic check-in or check-out of assets controlled by MediaManager. Only manual check-in and check-out are supported.

## Sharing Session Files

To avoid conflicts among multiple users and avoid general performance problems, no two Pro Tools clients should open the same session file at the same time. Only one Pro Tools client should have a particular session file open at any given time.

To have more than one client work with the same session, each client *must* have its own copy of the session file. This allows several clients to work with the same session at the same time.

## Pro Tools Session Locker

PTSessionLocker is a drag and drop application. It works only with Pro Tools 5.1 session files (earlier formats can be saved in the newer 5.1 format from Pro Tools). Any file, other than a PT 5.1 session file, displays an invalid session file alert and the application terminates.

PTSessionLocker has one function, to lock or unlock all of the audio files referenced by a Pro Tools 5.1 session file. When you drop the Pro Tools 5.1 session file that you are interested in locking or unlocking onto the PTSessionLocker icon, you are prompted to lock, unlock, or cancel the operation. Lock and Unlock process the files in the session, progress is indicated in the progress bar. After all of the files are processed, you see the final status dialog box. After acknowledging the dialog box, the PTSessionLocker quits.

You need to lock audio files in a Pro Tools session file that accesses a MediaNet workgroup because Pro Tools does not understand MediaNet shared files. When Pro Tools encounters files with the lock attribute set, it does not allow destructive modification to be made to the audio file. The file is considered as play back only mode.

PTSessionLocker only needs to be used when multiple editors are working with the same set of audio files and you want to make sure you don't accidentally edit another user's files.

### **Sharing Video Files**

Pro Tools clients can share 3:1 or lower resolution video files in an allocation group with other MediaNet clients. It is currently only possible to share JFIF video files.

### **Sharing Audio Files**

Pro Tools clients can share audio files in an allocation group with other MediaNet clients. All the restrictions on destructive file modifications apply to the shared allocation group.

### **Sharing Fade Files**

When more than one client is working with the same session, only one client can edit the fade files in the session. Other clients can play the files, but make no modifications. For information on making files read only, see "Pro Tools Session Locker" on page 31.

### **Read Only Media Files**

When more than one client is working with the same session, only one client can edit the files in the session. Other clients can play the files, but make no modifications. For information on making files read only, see "Pro Tools Session Locker" on page 31.



## Workflow Examples

### Workflow 1: Composer Sequence to Pro Tools Session

In this workflow, a Pro Tools client and a Composer Products client are sharing a workspace and allocation group.

1. On the Composer Products client, when you export a video sequence for use with Pro Tools, make sure that you render all the effects and the transitions before exporting the sequence.
2. Export the video sequence as an OMF2 composition that refers to the existing media files.
3. On the Pro Tools client, use DigiTranslator to convert the OMF2 composition into a Pro Tools session file that refers to the original media files.
4. Open the new Pro Tools session file and perform your audio editing work. You can play the video files while sharing them with the Composer Products client.

### Caveats

- This workflow is only possible with video resolutions with a 2:1 or higher compression ratio. It is not possible for a Pro Tools client and a Composer Products client to share files in the same allocation group when using a 1:1 video resolution.
- This workflow requires DigiTranslator for use in a MediaNet workgroup.

## **Workflow 2: Pro Tools Rendered Mix to Composer Clip**

In this workflow, a flattened Pro Tools session is returned to the Composer Products client as an OMF media file, properly wrapped to include Master Clip metadata.

1. On Pro Tools client, perform a Bounce To Disk. Select the OMFMediaFiles folder of the Composer Products client as the file destination.
2. On the Composer Products client, choose Refresh Media Directories from the File menu.
3. The new Master Clip should be available in the Media Tool and can be dragged into a Bin for use in a sequence.

### **Caveats**

- You must enable Avid Compatibility Mode preference in Pro Tools.
- Use 1 Frame Grid Mode in Pro Tools during Bounce to Disk to ensure that a frame-accurate media file and clip are produced.

## **Workflow 3: Pro Tools Session to Composer Sequence**

In this workflow, a Pro Tools session is exported as a composition (with external media files) for import as a sequence on the Composer Products client. You can use this workflow for performing audio prelay functions and voice-over recordings.

1. On the Pro Tools client, use DigiTranslator to convert a Pro Tools session into a frame-accurate OMF sequence with external media files.
2. On the Composer Products client, import the sequence and play it back.

### **Caveats**

- This workflow requires the latest Composer Products software (Composer Release 10.1 or later, Symphony Release 3.1 or later, or Avid Express Release 4.1 or later).

- This workflow requires DigiTranslator for use in a MediaNet workgroup.
- This is an audio-only workflow because DigiTranslator does not represent the video track in its OMF output.
- This is a composition and media only workflow because most types of Pro Tools metadata (time stamps, mix automation, plug-ins, etc.) are not exported by DigiTranslator.

#### **Workflow 4: Composer Sequence and Media to a Pro Tools Session**

This workflow is similar to Workflow 1 except that the Pro Tools client and the Composer Products client access separate allocation groups, which is necessary when using 1:1 video resolution.

1. On the Composer Products client, when you are export a video sequence for use with Pro Tools, make sure that you render all the effects and the transitions before exporting the sequence.
2. Duplicate and consolidate the sequence to a workspace in a different allocation group that allows Pro Tools clients access to the files.
3. Export the sequence as an OMF2 composition that refers to the consolidated media files.
4. On the Pro Tools client, use DigiTranslator to convert the OMF2 composition into a Pro Tools session file that refers to the consolidated media files.
5. Open the new Pro Tools session file and perform your audio editing work. You can play the video files from a different allocation group than the Composer Products client.

#### **Caveats**

- This workflow requires DigiTranslator for use in a MediaNet workgroup.

## Known Issues

This section describes known issues in the MediaNet for Pro Tools software. When a workaround exists, it appears in the paragraph directly following the bug description.



*If you encounter a problem with the MediaNet workgroup, consult these release notes to see if a known issue or workaround associated with your problem exists before contacting Avid Customer Support.*



When digitizing 1:1 video to a single-user allocation group, no other client should be using that same allocation group. If other clients try to play from the allocation group, it can take Pro Tools a significant amount of time (up to 2 minutes) for Record Arm to occur.

**Workaround:** While digitizing 1:1 video, have all other clients work from allocation groups other than the one where you are digitizing video.



You might notice some user interface hesitation or pausing while digitizing is in progress. It occurs as hesitation when you move the cursor over the display or a slowness in the counter as you digitize. This is most noticeable every 4 minutes while digitizing. You should see no noticeable user interface pausing while playing your sessions.



Optimizing workspaces from a Macintosh client (Pro Tools or Composer Products) requires that a workspace be mounted on the client. This causes the optimize operation to not complete successfully and in some cases, might cause the client to hang or crash. The unsuccessful optimize operation does not cause any data corruption.

**Workaround:** Perform all optimize operations from the File Manager.

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